

HEART DISEASE—Its Diagnosis and Treatment—Second Edition. Emanuel Goldberger, M.D., F.A.C.P., Associate Attending Physician, Montefiore Hospital, New York. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1955. 781 pages, \$12.50.

This book aims to encompass the entire field of diseases of the heart. It makes a valiant effort to accomplish this purpose within the not too voluminous space of 766 pages. Many important subjects are covered too briefly, and therefore a comprehensive clinical picture of many entities cannot be given nor is this a broad reference source.

The description of cardiac symptomatology and cardiac and pulmonary function tests is thorough and the relation to basic physiology is well expressed. There may be serious differences of opinion, however, from the author's expressed explanations of certain fundamental physiologic processes. The chapters on roentgenology, electrocardiography and ballistocardiography cover the essential features of these procedures competently for the brief space allotted.

The description of cardiac catheter findings, with an accompanying table, point out gross changes that may be expected in various cardiac defects, but this information only serves to indicate the usefulness of this procedure. Current knowledge of the significant and sometimes deceptive variations in pressures, blood flows and oxygen content is not presented. One desires a more definite appraisal by the author of the advantages and danger of certain therapeutic measures, rather than the frequent use of the general and weaker descriptive terms of "can" and "may." At times, however, the author expresses personal opinions which are in conflict with some currently well accepted concepts. Examples of these are rheumatic heart disease as a general rule is a poor obstetrical risk if the patient is over 35 years of age, and that the enlargement of the cardiac silhouette by roentgenogram in acute pericarditis is due to cardiac enlargement and not to pericardial fluid; that the low diastolic blood pressure in aortic insufficiency is due to "sucking blood back into the heart"; and that the primary therapy of mitral stenosis (presumably symptomatic) is medical and not surgical.

Certain statements are made which demand challenge, as for example: That emphysema without heart failure results in elevated venous pressure; that the Blalock-Taussig procedure is indicated for "pure" pulmonic valve stenosis with a patent foramen ovale; and that cyanosis (rather than systemic venous engorgement) is the distinctive clinical sign of Ebstein's Complex (erroneously indexed as Epstein's anomaly).

This book will serve to give the student, and those desirous of acquiring a basic knowledge of heart disease, a broad but brief coverage of the subjects. It includes in its 51 chapters a wide range of clinical entities, including the rheumatic defects; coronary artery disease; the congenital abnormalities; miscellaneous causes of myocardial disease; and the relation of surgery, pregnancy and employment to heart disease. It is well-indexed and contains short bibliographies following each chapter.

* * *

MEDICINE FOR NURSES—Sixth Edition. W. Gordon Sears, M.D. (Lond.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.), Physician Superintendent, Mile End Hospital, London, Examiner to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Edward Arnold Publishers Ltd., London. Distributed by Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1954. 520 pages, \$4.00.

The sixth edition of this British textbook for nurses has been thoroughly revised with many sections rewritten, and consequently many of the deficiencies noted in the previous edition have been corrected. Treatment, particularly, has been brought up to date. Practically all of the newer drugs and concepts of therapy which the present day nursing stu-

dent is likely to encounter are mentioned and adequately described. The close correlation between various medical diseases and the nurse's role in treatment are emphasized and concisely presented. There appears to be less chance of confusion between nurses' and physicians' responsibilities in the present edition than previously. More illustrations have been added, to a total of 80.

More serious deficiencies noted in the fifth edition persist in the present volume, however. As a standard textbook to be used in most American schools of nursing this book is too brief. Important and frequently encountered diseases such as primary atypical pneumonia and homologous serum jaundice are not even mentioned. Larger more comprehensive volumes are available and undoubtedly will be preferred.

Medical and drugs terms used are British and, although the word more familiar in this country is given frequently in parentheses, confusion can result.

As a textbook for review of nursing medicine or as a source of quick and concise reference on the medical wards this volume could be useful.

* * *

OBSTETRICS—11th Edition. J. P. Greenhill, M.D., Senior Attending Obstetrician and Gynecologist, The Michael Reese Hospital, Professor of Gynecology, Cook County Graduate School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1955. 1088 pages, 1170 illustrations on 910 figures, 144 in color, \$14.00.

This volume is the 11th edition of the standard textbook on obstetrics originally written by J. B. DeLee, subsequently revised and rewritten under the editorship of J. P. Greenhill. The immediately preceding revision appeared in 1951, so that the present volume represents an up-to-date work embodying the commonly accepted principles of modern obstetric practice. Greenhill adopts a fairly middle-of-the-road approach to most obstetrical problems, and the recommendations and treatment are sufficiently conservative to permit the use of this book as a textbook and general handbook. Most of the viewpoints, expressed or implied, carry a strong personal flavor, but this is the author's style and cannot be termed objectionable. Some outmoded procedures, such as home delivery preparations and intrauterine bag usage, are given an inordinate amount of consideration, but modern concepts concerning retrolental fibroplasia and total cesarean hysterectomy are well documented. Discussion of toxemia could be improved. This book will continue to find usefulness as a text for medical students and those interested in general obstetrical practice.

* * *

PATHOLOGY. Peter A. Herbut, M.D., Professor of Pathology, Jefferson Medical College and Director of Clinical Laboratories, Jefferson Medical College Hospital. 1227 pages, 651 figures, 6 color plates, \$16.00.

This is a new textbook of Pathology intended for undergraduate or postgraduate students of medicine. It is nicely illustrated, mostly by reproductions of photographs which are technically excellent. References at the end of each chapter cite only publications in the English language, but are representative and are clearly marked to indicate their content.

The book is intended as a general presentation unadorned by unnecessary details. As a result it is quite didactic, with emphasis upon enumeration of descriptive features of disease and relatively little discussion of pathogenesis or significance of pathological changes. When lists of causes or factors in disease are given there is frequently no attempt to evaluate their relative importance. Critical analysis of conflicting ideas is not attempted.